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Announcement results in multimillion dollar contracts

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KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M.—Based on a single announcement published a year ago, 21 companies, educational institutions and other organizations were awarded contracts here valued at more than \$22.2 million.

The 21 organizations selected were from more than 220 responses to the announcement, which asked them to outline projects they could undertake in developing high-energy laser technology for the Department of Defense. Money and oversight for this work would come from the department's High Energy Laser Joint Technology Office, located in Albuquerque, N.M.

Air Force contracting officials noted that together with the Joint Technology Office, they were pleased with the overwhelming response they received to the announcement. They expect the resulting one- and two-year contracts will yield technological advances in the way laser light is aimed and controlled in order to destroy a target, in developing better optics needed for managing beams of laser energy, and in laser manufacturing processes. Other contracts involve improvements on various kinds of lasers, including chemical, solid-state, fiber, free electron and x-ray lasers.

Contracts were awarded to three Albuquerque companies: Boeing SVS Inc., A-Tech Corp. Applied Technologies Associates, and Intellite Inc. for \$1 million, \$2.1 million, and \$.8 million, respectively, and to QinetiQ Inc., United Kingdom, for \$1.4 million.

Two educational institutions also received contracts: Northern Illinois University in DeKalb for \$.6 million and the University of Illinois at Urbana for \$.2 million.

The remaining 15 organizations are spread throughout the United States. They include Argonne National Laboratory in Argonne, Ill., for \$2 million; Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. in Boulder, Colo., for \$.5 million; Boeing-Laser & Electro Optical Systems of Canoga Park, Calif., for \$.5 million; Coherent Technologies Inc. of Louisville, Colo., for \$1.8 million; Directed Energy Solutions of Colorado Springs, Colo., for \$.6 million; HRL Laboratories in Malibu, Calif., for \$.9 million; Lockheed Martin Space Systems Co. in Sunnyvale, Calif., for \$1.6 million; Los Alamos (N.M.) National Laboratory for \$.6 million; Northrop Grumman Space Technology in Charlotte, N.C. for \$.5 million; Northrop Grumman Corp. in Baltimore, Md., for \$1.9 million; Onyx Optics Inc. of Dublin, Calif., for \$1.9 million; Polymicro Technologies in Phoenix, Ariz., for \$.1 million; Princeton Lightwave Inc. in Cranbury, N.J., for \$1.1 million; Science Applications International Corp. in Longmont, Colo. for \$1.6 million; and Science Applications International Corp. in McLean, Va., for \$.5 million.

The Joint Technology Office was established in 2000 to manage a comprehensive approach to the development of high-energy laser science and technology for Department of Defense organizations. Operating under an annual budget of approximately \$60 million, the organization is currently sponsoring 80 programs across industry, academia and government agencies. @